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**Appl. No. : Unknown**  
**Filed : Herewith**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

As noted below, please cancel Claims 1-8 and 11-35 without prejudice.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Original)** An inflatable connection rod comprising:

(a) a proximal end comprising a self-sealing valve;

(b) a distal end comprising a tip; and

(c) a compliant, inflatable balloon between the proximal end and the distal end.

10. **(Original)** The inflatable connection rod of Claim 9, where the balloon comprises thin, reinforcing wires.

11-35. **(Canceled)**